

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1118 - HB 895

March 3, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Basic Education Program (BEP) funding formula to fund one English language learner (ELL) instructor for every 20 students and one English language translator for every 200 students.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$27,803,000

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$1,000,000/Permissive

Assumptions:

- Under current law, the BEP funding ratio for ELL instructors is one instructor for every 30 ELL students. The BEP funding ratio for English language translators is one translator for every 300 students.
- According to the Department of Education, the BEP funding formula will require an additional \$27,803,000 in state funds for new ELL instructors and translators; therefore, a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$27,803,000.
- This bill requires the BEP funding formula to provide additional funding for an increased number of ELL instructors and translators; however, it does not explicitly require local education agencies to employ more ELL instructors or translators.
- Based on the BEP funding formula exclusively, and relative to the increased state portion of \$27,803,000, the required local BEP match would be approximately \$11,917,000. However, LEAs are currently funding above and beyond their local match requirements; therefore, no increase in local BEP match funding will be required.
- Some LEAs may elect to increase their number of ELL instructors and translators despite not being explicitly required to do so. For those electing, some may be able to do so without additional local funding, thus no additional local government funding would be required. Others may elect to match the state portion on some level, thus causing a permissive increase in local expenditures.

- The extent of any such additional local expenditures is dependent upon several unknown factors, thus making a precise estimate difficult. However, the permissive recurring increase in local government expenditures for employing new ELL instructors and translators is reasonably estimated to exceed \$1,000,000 statewide.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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